

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated September 18, 2007. Responsive to that Action, Claim 13 has been amended, claim 31 has been withdrawn, and Claims 32-35 are newly-added for further prosecution.

Claim for Priority

In the September 28, 2007 dated Office Action, Examiner indicated that the amendment filed on July 02, 2007 contain elements such as the key lock, the stem connected to the shackle, a driving rod between a key lock and a mounting portion of the block that are not disclosed in the Provisional Application No. 60/443,331 filed on January 29, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the "'331 Provisional Application"). Consequently, the Examiner indicated that the present application is not entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the '331 provisional application if it includes these additional claimed elements. Responsive to this, Claim 13 has been amended to exclude those features noted by the Examiner and to be supported by the '331 Provisional Application. Claims 32-34 are newly-added claims that depend directly or indirectly on the amended independent Claim 13. More specifically, Claim 34 was originally presented as claim 30, but relabeled herein in order to clarify its dependency on claim 33.

Further, the new independent Claim 35 is filed by this Amendment for further prosecution.

Because all features not supported by the '331 Provisional Application have been excluded, the present application shall be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the '331 Provisional Application. Hence, the primary relied on reference, as disclosed by Loughlin Patent Publication No. 2004/0226324 (hereinafter referred to as the "'324 Loughlin Patent") should no longer be considered. The '324 Loughlin Patent reference was filed on May 13, 2004 which postdates the priority date of the '331 Provisional Application from which the current application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e).

CONCLUSION


Applicant believes this case is now in condition for allowance of all claims therein. Such action is thus respectfully requested.

If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below. For all the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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